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USD Introduces High Tech Communications System

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USD INTRODUCES HIGH TECH COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

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A high tech business communications system that projects the University of San Diego into the vanguard of the Information Age was introduced today at Olin Hall, new home of the School of Business Administration.

Olin Hall, site of a news conference today at which the new AT&T System 85 was demonstrated for reporters, is one of several campus buildings that are joined together by the new system.

Jack Boyce, vice president for Financial Affairs at USD, told newsmen today that USD is the first university west of the Mississippi to install the AT&T system, an integrated voice/data system.

"We're proud to be a leader in bringing high technology to a university campus," said Boyce. "It demonstrates this university's commitment to excellence

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in our management and planning procedures just as we seek excellence in the classroom. The campus architecture is meant to remind us of our heritage. However, our thinking is very oriented towards the twenty-first century, the century in which our students will be the primary leaders in their communities. As educators and as businesspersons, we intend to prepare them for the future. The generosity of the Olin Foundation in its gift of this building to our campus, prompted us to move into more sophisticated modes of electronic communication. System 85 is but the beginning."

The system, which will link campus buildings with a digital communications network, currently provides service for 1850 lines; 750 of them are for general university use and the balance for student telephones and future use.

The system was put in service Aug. 31.

Pete Fellows, area vice president for sales, Southern California, who attended today's news conference, said the USD system "is the most sophisticated in the communications industry."

Special features include single-button conference calling and electronic message retrieval.

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Another feature, applicable on inter-campus calls, displays the name of a caller on a small screen.

Still other features include:

- Call cost-tracking
- On-going remote monitoring and maintenance of the system
- Monitoring building energy and security
- Integration of voice and data communication
- Automation of an office through Electronic Directory, Message Center and Electronic Document communications.

USD will not avail itself of all advanced services at the outset.

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